

REMARKS

It is respectfully submitted that this paper is fully response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated March 29, 2006. Below is a complete discussion of the substance of the personal interview of January 4, 2006.

During the Interview conducted on January 4, 2006, Applicant's representative and Examiner Ciric discussed the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as asserted in the previous Office Action. Applicant's representative argued that the cited reference of Moss fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claimed invention. Specifically, Applicant's representative argued that Moss does not disclose or suggest a pump for circulating an intermediate fluid between the vaporizer and the heat exchanger, as recited in the claims. Similarly, Applicant's representative argued that Moss does not disclose or suggest that the heat exchanger heats an intermediate fluid since, according to the configuration disclosed in Moss, sea water is used to transfer heat directly to the LNG.

The Examiner, however, took the position that the portion of the sea water that is pumped through the submerged heat exchanger shell enclosure, as opposed to the surrounding sea water, corresponds to the intermediate fluid of the present invention. Applicant's representative pointed out that the intermediate fluid of the claimed invention is a fluid other than sea water. The Examiner asserted, however, that she was giving the claims their broadest possible interpretation.

In view of the Examiner's position, proposed amendments to the claims were discussed. The Examiner suggested that the claims be amended to recite the respective locations of the vaporizer and the heat exchanger. The Examiner indicated that amending the claims to recite that the vaporizer is located within the hull of the carrier, while the heat exchanger is located outside of the hull, would overcome the Moss reference. The amendments submitted in the Response dated January 11, 2006 correspond to the claim amendments discussed with the Examiner.

Additionally, an amendment to claim 1 to overcome the §112, second paragraph, rejection was discussed. Applicant's representative and the Examiner agreed that amending the claim to recite "heat exchanger is configured to transfer heat to the intermediate fluid," rather than "configured to heat the intermediate fluid," would overcome the §112, second paragraph, rejection. As such, this amendment was also submitted in the Response filed January 11, 2006.

Applicants respectfully submit that the preceding is an accurate record of the substance of the personal interview conducted on January 4, 2006. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this paper is fully response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated March 29, 2006.

In the event there are any fees due with respect to the filing of this paper, please charge to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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